Sheriff in Jail to Safeguard Bremer

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By Ivan G. Goldman
Washington Post Staff Writer

Prince George's County Sheriff Don E. Ansell plans to stay overnight in the county jail in Upper Marlboro during the incarceration there of Arthur Herman Bremer, soon to be its best-known inmate.

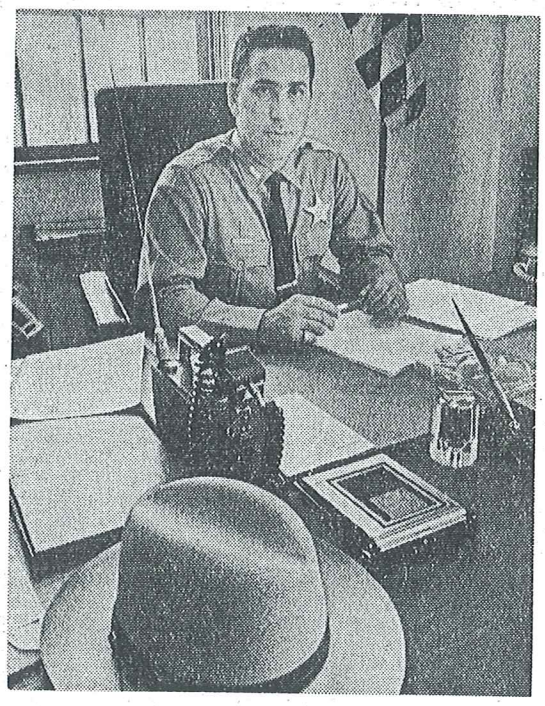
Bremer, accused of shooting Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace and three other persons May 15, in a Laurel shopping center, is scheduled to begin trial July 31 in Upper Marlboro on state charges that include four counts of assault with intent to murder.

During the trial, expected to take about a week, Bremer will be confined in the jail, which is 100 yards east of the courthouse, it was confirmed by a variety of sources yesterday. Although it is not known exactly when Bremer will arrive, Ansell was planning to stay overnight in the jail last night, a county government spokesman said.

Bremer was held in federal custody at the Baltimore County jail in Towson until last week, when he was transferred for psychiatric evaluation to Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital in Jessup, Md.

Jay F. Morris, administrative assistant to Prince George's County Executive William W. Gullett, said Ansell took over official custody of Bremer on Tuesday from the FBI. Morris said Ansell had 12 deputies with him when federal agents turned over their prisoner at 3 p.m.

Neal Ball White House deputy press secretary, said yesterday that President Nixon himself approved Bremer's transfer to Maryland authorities. Nixon followed the recommendation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Ball said.



By Ken Feil—The Washington Post

Prince George's County Sheriff Don E. Ansell, shown here in his office, has moved into the county jail to help safeguard Arthur E. Bremer.

Ansell, who sees his custody of Bremer as perhaps the most important professional task in his life, also has moved his office from the courthouse to the jail.

Bremer, 21, a former Milwaukee busboy and janitor has so far refused to cooperate with psychiatrists at the institution, politely declining to answer their questions. There was no indication yesterday when he would be transferred to the 44-year-old, three-story red brick jail in Upper Marlboro.

There had been speculation earlier that Bremer would be held at the Towson jail during his state trial, commuting 100 miles round trip each day to the courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

The Prince George's jail, about 100 yards east of the courthouse, houses about 135 prisoners most of them awaiting trial.

Not counting the trustees who occasionally just walk away while laboring outside the jail, 20 inmates have escaped from jail custody in the last two years. Not surprisingly the place has become a butt of jokes told around the county seat.

Ansell has 68 jail guards on his staff, and he rarely has more than 12 on duty at one time. Therefore, by having 12 guards with him to take custody Tuesday, he apparent

See JAIL, C5, Col. 4

Sherriff Sets Safeguards For Bremer

JAIL, From C1

doubled his staff on that shift. It could not be learned yesterday how many deputies are guarding Bremer at any one time.

Ansell and others working in official capacity on the Bremer case have been prevented from discussing any aspect of it by July 3 court order signed by Ralph W. Powers, chief judge of the Circuit Court for Southern Maryland. There were unconfirmed reports yesterday that Ansell would actually sleep at the jail when Bremer arrives.

Morris said that the county's public works department began $4,000 worth of construction on the jail yesterday to increase jail security for Bremer. Sources said there will be reinforcement of certain brick and concrete sections. Three public works trucks were outside the jail. One of the workmen said they would be installing metal sheets over certain windows. Apparently they are meant to deter any attempted assassination of Bremer, a thought worrying Ansell.

The latest prisoner to escape, William A. Thompson, was returned to the jail Wednesday night, Ansell said yesterday. Thompson, charged with robbing a bus near Baltimore, walked away Tuesday due to a mistake in paperwork by somebody on the sheriff's staff.

Ansell said two of his deputies, working with members of Washington's metropolitan police department, captured Thompson at an apartment somewhere in Washington.

A second trial of Bremer in federal court in Baltimore on separate federal charges of violating the civil rights of a presidential candidate, assaulting a federal officer and violating gun laws has been delayed indefinitely.